

Environment Committee

Re: **H.B. No. 5499 AN ACT AUTHORIZING SUNDAY HUNTING ON CERTAIN PRIVATE LANDS, and**

H.B. No 5858 AN ACT AUTHORIZING LIFETIME HIUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES, and

S.B. No. 522 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BEAR HUNTING IN CONNECTICUT,

Distinguished Members of the Environmental Committee:

I am writing in SUPPORT of H.B. No. 5499.

I am an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys the outdoors in many ways, including hunting. Allowing hunters to hunt on private property will still allow non-hunters to enjoy the outdoors by hiking, birding, etc. without the presence of hunters. All activities on private property require permission of the landowner including hunting, hiking, birding, etc. and without permission an individual would be trespassing. There will be no hunting presence on lands open to the public and therefore passive recreational activities will not be hindered and people will still be able to enjoy the outdoors free from hunters.

Allowing hunting on private lands on Sundays will generate revenue for the state. Many hunters, including myself, travel out-of-state to hunt for all or portions of the hunting season since hunting on Sunday is allowed in neighboring states including New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and New Hampshire.

Allowing hunting on private land is at the discretion of the landowner and should not be restricted to certain days of the week, unless deemed necessary by the specific landowner.

Many hunters, including myself, are unable to enjoy hunting in Connecticut as much as we would like due to work, school, family, etc. consuming most or all weekdays. Passage of this bill would greatly improve hunters' ability to enjoy the outdoors by increasing the days available for them to hunt.

I urge you to support H.B. 5499 and bring this bill to the House and Senate floors to be voted on.

I am writing in SUPPORT of H.B. No. 5858.

I support the issuance of lifetime hunting and fishing licenses, permits and stamps. This opportunity is available in other New England states and it is time that Connecticut offer Connecticut's sportsmen the same opportunity.

I urge you to support H.B. 5858 and bring this bill to the House and Senate floors to be voted on.

I am writing in SUPPORT of S.B. No. 522.

As the state is seeing increased human/bear encounters, it has come to a point where population management is necessary. I fully support the implementation of a bear hunting season in Connecticut. Currently, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and New York all have bear seasons and Connecticut needs to institute one in order to maintain a healthy population for all to enjoy.

Bears do not have any natural predators in Connecticut and the population will continue to grow causing increased conflicts with humans. A bear hunting season is a responsible, efficient and cost effective solution for Connecticut.

Allowing bear hunting in Connecticut will generate revenue for the state. Many hunters, including myself, currently travel out-of-state to hunt for bears.

I urge you to support S.B. 522 and bring this bill to the House and Senate floors to be voted on.

Sincerely,

Michael Salter
Granby, CT